

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a mobile display system with an improved backlight system. In one embodiment of the invention, the mobile display system comprises a mobile unit including a flat panel display, and a first backlight circuit for providing light to the display. The first backlight circuit includes a plurality of lights sources disposed near edges of the mobile unit and a single power supply for powering a pre-selected one of the light sources. The system also comprises a base station capable of being powered by an external power source. The base station includes a second backlight circuit that comprises at least one power supply for powering the plurality of light sources in the mobile unit when the mobile unit is attached to the base station. This invention keeps the weight and power consumption of the mobile unit low, but allows long battery life at the compromise of display surface light intensity while mobile and provides high brightness characteristics when docked.